



# COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



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# COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



## Preface by the Librarians

*By way of preface to Mary A. Benjamin's lively article, "Columbia Wakes Up!" (see page 5), the editor has asked Dr. White, Dean of the School of Library Service, and Dr. Logsdon, Director of Libraries, to give their impressions of the Library's former seeming indifference to—but present interest in—the acquisition of rare books and manuscripts.*

## The Greatest Gift of All

THE editor asked me to tell the University side of Mary Benjamin's story, "Columbia Wakes Up!"

The awakening came gradually. Building up the staff helped. Columbia managed to assemble an excellent library staff. They know their business, pull together, inspire confidence.

But the staff needed help from the outside to improve the climate in which it works, and how wonderfully helpful in this regard the Friends are proving to be. It took a while to get started. Dallas Pratt agreed in 1948-49 to serve as chairman of a committee to enlist the organized support of public-spirited citizens on behalf of the Libraries. One by one other committee

members were added, the first meeting being held in April, 1950. The decision to launch a Friends organization followed in the autumn. At Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Hyde and Henry Rogers Benjamin gave \$1500 to get started. The wheels turn slowly in a university sometimes, but within six months (our darkest period) the proposal to launch the new organization had been approved and a public call to membership was issued.

That was May 1, 1951. By September 30, 1953, the Friends contributed \$16,158.98 and, as this goes to press, turned over to the Libraries book collections having an estimated value of \$88,675.50.

This is a splendid record for the first two years. Miss Benjamin looks past this record to the moral support which the Friends are mobilizing. This in the end is, of course, the greatest gift of all.

CARL M. WHITE

## Perspective

TIME gives perspective to events as a view of the whole from a distance gives perspective to physical objects. The committee of three blind men had difficulty identifying the elephant. Each was close to a part of the scene but could not compare notes to determine that the tree, the wall and the snake were really after all an elephant.

In the pages which follow Mary Benjamin pictures the Columbia Libraries as awakening to a new sense of responsibility in the acquisition, care and appreciation of fine books and manuscripts. The "awakening" implies that things were not always so—and indeed Columbia is not alone either among libraries or dealers in falling short of desirable attitudes and practices. Her thought-provoking article views the scene from the vantage point of an experienced dealer, a Columbia graduate, and a Friend of the Columbia Libraries. Our editor would have us give the

University side of the story—the why, for example, of Columbia's earlier lack of interest in rare books and manuscripts and why the recent change.

It is here that only time and distance can give the necessary perspective to see the whole and to give proper weight to the forces and events of Columbia's recent library history. Some of us have perhaps been too close to the scene to picture it accurately. But the deadline is today; so the risks must be taken.

The primary responsibility of the Columbia Libraries is to support study and research at Columbia. This task properly has first call on the staff and book funds provided from the University's income. Quantitatively a substantial portion of the library budget goes for services, books, journals, and binding which would not come within the usual definition of rare books and manuscripts. The exceptions are generally of three kinds: (1) provision for the care of previously acquired books and manuscripts which by reason of time and circumstances deserve special handling; (2) provision for teaching and research requirements involving rare books and manuscripts; (3) acquisitions made possible by gift or from gift funds.

It is recognized, of course, that almost any item of the type under discussion is potentially useful in an institution like Columbia with a broad and diversified program of research and study. It is likewise true that current scholarly journals in such fields as Science and Medicine are more important to, say, cancer research than a Darwin letter. It would be fine to have both, but in the past, at least, choices have been necessary, leading perhaps unduly to the impression that Columbia was not interested in the latter.

Columbia seems to be known generally as a rich institution. True, its financial, physical, and staff resources are substantial. Nevertheless, when weighed in relation to the tasks undertaken even a million-dollar library budget falls short of accomplishing all that needs to be done in support of research and instruction. In my opinion this background of fact, operating through the

years, has given the impression that Columbia tends to be "utilitarian" in its acquisition policy. This condition, however, does not excuse or justify attitudes, activities or failures to act which have generated among dealers and collectors the conviction that Columbia has been indifferent to the importance of rare books and manuscripts.

It is heartening, indeed, to know that the impression of an awakening Columbia is beginning to replace one of somnolence. This is progress—but there is certainly much more to be done. The Friends organization and the *Columbia Library Columns* give us all new channels of communication. Mutual understanding of our common purposes will surely lead to increasing cooperation among those interested in the acquisition and preservation of rarities.

RICHARD H. LOGSDON



# Columbia Wakes Up!

MARY A. BENJAMIN

IN 1890, my father, Walter R. Benjamin, who was newly established in his work in autographs, jolted librarians by commenting in his monthly publication, *The Collector*, that “about the deadest thing in this country is the average Historical Society.” Rubbing salt into the wound, he added: “Not one in a dozen has the slightest sign of life about it.” He did not include in his statement the manuscript divisions of institutional libraries because in his day these were almost non-existent. When, thirty-five years later, I joined him in the business, he had found little reason to change his opinion, and his criticism seemed to me to apply equally well to most of the institutional manuscript divisions.

The change in attitude that has come about since 1925, marking an awakening interest in our great manuscript collections, has been a gradual but steady one. Institutional libraries, laggard indeed in starting, have today in many cases taken the lead in the field. Whether to attribute the new outlook to more enlightened librarians, to the loyalty of alerted alumni, or to the efforts of those groups called Friends of the Library, is difficult to say, but it is probable that all three factors enter the picture. Whatever the reason, those responsible for the change have obviously awakened to the fact that the backbone of any educational institution is the Library, which must provide books and research manuscripts—vital intellectual support—for the great student body.

Books and manuscripts do not, of course, appear miraculously on the shelves of a library. They are added slowly, sometimes singly, sometimes in bulk, by means of gifts and purchases. Pity the poor librarian, who today must have administrative talent, book knowledge, and an attractive personality that will woo donors into swelling the institution’s collections, and the additional

ability to befriend the dealers, who supply this needed and often scarce material. Gifts, of course, are the most desirable and least expensive way of increasing a library's holdings. Additions by purchase are, however, sometimes highly desirable, if not imperative, and no well-rounded, balanced and progressive institution can avoid facing this unfortunate necessity.

Where rare book and manuscript collections are being actively developed, one will find that dealers are rendering cooperation and assistance which is of paramount importance. The dealers (I am referring here and elsewhere in the article to dealers in manuscripts and rare books) can and do form a powerful bloc in the development of libraries all over the world. Not only do they supply rare books and manuscripts, but they also make available to librarians their services in appraising gift collections—services which are of particular importance these days when the Government may investigate the possibility of fraud. Librarians, who in the past were not averse to doing such appraising themselves, are chary of doing so today. Burdened with weightier problems, they are aware of their lack of complete familiarity with market values, and also hesitate to expose donors and themselves to unpleasant repercussions from tax authorities who might claim that such appraisals involved a contract between two interested parties. That appraisals by some librarians have, in the past, been abused is common knowledge in the trade. The day of reckoning with government authorities will, however, hold no fears for those librarians who wisely seek counsel of their dealer friends.

A perhaps lesser known advantage of cultivating the dealers' friendship is that, because of the special bond of good will and trust existing between them and private collectors, dealers can influence and encourage collectors to donate material to a friendly institution—or not to donate, as the case may be.

The importance of the dealers, and the impetus given by them to a library's growth, has definitely not been fully appreciated until recent years. In the past, suspicion and distrust of them was



more the rule than the exception. The fact that dealers earned their livelihood by means of trading in books and autographs, and hence had to make a profit, seemed to damn them. In the eyes of some librarians they were looked upon, at very best, as some form of incipient racketeer and treated with corresponding brusqueness. That among the dealers there were those who because of their knowledge and long experience rightfully considered themselves professionals was completely overlooked.

Many things have helped dispel this former ungracious attitude. No doubt the establishment of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, among whose chief purposes are the desires to publicize bookcollecting and to promote good will between librarians, collectors and dealers, has done much to do away with a few of the misconceptions. The A.B.A.A. requires of its members definite standards of conduct and a code of ethics. (Having had the privilege of serving on the Governing Board for two years, I know the carefulness with which the qualifications of proposed new members are checked).

But even before the A.B.A.A. came into being, signs of change had already appeared. The organization merely served to verify and establish a recognition of which librarians were already becoming aware. With this awareness came the realization that only with full and complete cooperation between librarian, dealers, and that indispensable group of loyal alumni and well wishers called Friends of the Library, could desired results be hoped for. The work of the Friends in promoting good public relations for their college, in the spreading of good will, in the making of gifts, and in the encouragement of gift-making by others, is incalculable.

Nowhere, perhaps, has the forming of a group of Friends of the Library brought about a greater change of heart than at Columbia. The Friends have, in my opinion, been directly responsible for a most extraordinary and much-needed about-face in the attitude of those connected with the Columbia Li-

brary, although I recognize that Roland Baughman, the Head of Special Collections, has played an important part, too. I rejoice in this in a very particular way.

My position in connection with Columbia is a peculiar one. I am both an insider and an outsider. I am an insider in that I am a Barnard graduate, married to a Columbia alumnus who is now a member of the faculty. Understandably, I am keenly interested in Columbia's welfare and am anxious to see my Alma Mater occupy a rightfully high place in the bookworld. I am an outsider, however, due to the fact that my profession of handling autograph letters and manuscripts necessitates a profit in my transactions whether they are with private collectors or with libraries, including Columbia's. This dual position enables me, however, to have a fairly wide perspective. I am in touch with the University group, and I am also well aware of my colleagues' reactions to Columbia. I can truthfully say that until very recently the opinion of Columbia held by the rare booktrade was highly unflattering. And there was ample reason for this unfriendliness.

For years the indifference, if not ill will, felt in the trade for Columbia had been a matter of mortification to me. No graduate of a college enjoys having any aspect of his or her Alma Mater looked upon as unprogressive or second-rate. Yet this seemed to be the general opinion as far as Columbia's interest in acquiring rarities was concerned. This was hard to take, yet I well understood the reason behind such reactions. My own efforts at quoting to Columbia specialized material of significance had met with no response.. In the old days, sometimes, I might as well have offered the Library a family of auks for all the interest I aroused. This lack of common courtesy, multiplied many times over, did little to inspire feelings of warmth towards Columbia. One or two members of the faculty regretted the University's inertia in this, but they were unable to bring about any change in the status quo. Autographically and bookishly speaking Columbia could be considered nonexistent.

In contrast one heard repeated mention of lively meetings, attended by dealer-members, being held by the Friends of Yale, of Dartmouth, and of the Princeton Libraries. Of Columbia one heard nothing. The Library had no Friends, and apparently few friends. If the Columbia Libraries were increasing their holdings—and no doubt they were to some extent—the extent was unpublicized. Certainly little effort at maintaining diplomatic relations with dealers was made, or apparently desired. It is no wonder, then, that the general impression was that in the rare book and manuscript area the Columbia Library was still of the 1890 vintage.

Today the picture has changed heartwarminglly. In the brief two years of the Friends' existence at Columbia, they have succeeded in breaking down a very solid wall of prejudice against the University, and for this all alumni and alumnae are in their debt. Much has been accomplished in the way of goodwill, and reverberations of these murmers of new life are already noticeable in many quarters. The name of Columbia is heard more often in collecting circles, and the stimulating meetings and interesting programs sponsored by the Friends are being talked about. Blank looks and unfriendly remarks are no longer the rule.

But the work of the Friends has only begun. There is still a long way to go and much to do. Recently a New York librarian was bewailing the fact that so many New York collections—correspondence of notable New York State and City figures, manuscripts and personal papers of New York authors, poets, and statesmen—were going to out-of-State institutions. Here is very solid work to be attended to. Valuable research collections should not be allowed to slip away. Owners should be persuaded to house what they have at Columbia; those who are unaware of the significance of what they own must be enlightened. A sense of loyalty to the State and particularly to Columbia, New York's greatest and oldest University, should be instilled and nurtured. For those important collections which cannot be secured by gift, funds should be raised for acquisition by pur-

chase. These aims may sound like pipe dreams, but the Friends of other libraries have for years been successfully undertaking such projects. It is high time that Columbia shook itself out of its lethargy—especially now that so much attention is being focussed on the coming Bicentennial.

When I was first approached to become a member of the Friends, I was admittedly not very enthusiastic, for it was difficult for me to believe that anything but dynamite could bring about a change in the earlier conditions. I was greatly encouraged, however, after talking with Dr. Carl White, who at that time was Director of Libraries, and with Mr. Roland Baughman. I found that with them I could speak freely and therefore had no hesitation in voicing my disappointment in the relations which had existed between Columbia and the rare book dealers. I stated that I thought the authorities had been ill-advised in failing to befriend the trade. It was soon made clear to me that times had changed and that a welcome awaited my colleagues and myself. And so I joined the Friends and have had no cause to regret the step.

As a direct result of Columbia's new policy, I know of at least one case—and I understand there are others—of a colleague who influenced a collector to present a fine group of first editions to the Library. And the dealer in question is not a Friend. But he had been treated as a friend by the Friends and had been invited to one of their functions. Unable to attend, he nevertheless sought to show his appreciation in tangible form.

I, too, in a small way, have been able to channel collections to Columbia. In at least one case the gift would not have materialized but for the prompt and ready cooperation of Mr. Baughman and a member of the Friends.

It is difficult to explain how much it means to the long-established dealer in old letters, such as myself, to house an item appropriately—to find the right home for it. Success begets a feeling of gratification that is difficult to describe. My first contact with the Library, just after joining the Friends, was such an ex-



perience. Perhaps I should not tell the story—it is somewhat personal—but it represented for me the first real evidence of intelligent interest and appreciation of manuscripts I had noted at Columbia. Had the story not had a happy ending, I fear my faith in the awakening of Columbia would have suffered.

What happened was that a wonderful letter, of prime importance to Columbia's early history, was secured for the Library through the generosity of a Friend. This letter is now on deposit at Columbia and is to be formally presented next year. Its acquisition could only have happened through the goodwill and cooperation of the Friends.

By acting promptly I had been able to secure from a colleague's catalogue, sent me in friendship by first class mail, a Benjamin Franklin letter. It seemed reasonably priced and for this reason I wanted it. It was only after studying the letter that I realized the full significance of what I had acquired and its potential value to Columbia. I showed it to my husband, who became as excited over the letter as I, and we both agreed that, no matter what had been its previous indifference to autographs, Columbia must be given the chance to acquire it.

There was a little problem involved in that another institution—one of two which specialize in Franklin—had customarily been given first refusal on any Franklin material I obtained. As orders for the catalogued letter piled up upon the dealer who had listed it, my name was given out as the purchaser, and I surmised that there would be complications. And there were.

But, first, what was there about the item which was of such importance? It was a letter, entirely handwritten and signed by Franklin—an item valuable and desirable in any light—dated October 27, 1753, and addressed to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, whose book entitled *Elementa Philosophica: Containing Chiefly Noetica*, had been published by Franklin in 1752. Dr. Johnson, first President of Kings College, as Columbia was then known, had written this treatise with the specific intention of using it as a textbook in his first class in philosophy and logic at the College.



Dear Sir  
I have with me your letter  
of the 12th inst. I am bound as you  
directed; which are all I have of that kind.  
Copies, the other two are more ordinary.  
I hope they will go safe to hand.  
My sincere respects to good Mr.  
Johnson & your valuable sons. We  
greatly esteem & respect you, I am,  
Dear Sir, Yours most humble son  
B. Franklin

Dr. L. D. Johnson  
at Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania

Letter from Franklin to Samuel Johnson, President of King's College.

The letter was one of many (several of which were already at Columbia) that passed between Johnson and Franklin, who were friends of long standing, but whose correspondence has been scattered through the years. In it Franklin mentions sending Johnson twelve copies of the "Noetica," as he referred to it, but regrets his inability to supply more than ten of the volumes on good quality paper.

What I did not know when offering this letter to Columbia was the fact that the Library owns two copies of this very first edition of the book. One of the two is of particular interest in that it is heavily annotated and carries numerous corrections and changes—even as to title—in the hand of Dr. Johnson, who presumably contemplated the publication of a revised edition (this never materialized).

Could any letter fit more appropriately in a collection than this one? A finer exhibition trio can scarcely be visualized.

I do not believe I had the letter in my hands more than a few hours when I determined to take the measure of the new Friends. I phoned Dr. White and told him what I had, where I had secured it, what I had paid, and what my price was. To my delight, his response was immediate. "We must have that letter. Please hold it. I'll see what I can do. It may take a little time." I assured him I would wait.

I had scarcely put back the receiver when a long-distance call came through. It was, as I feared, the out-of-state librarian inquiring about my new Franklin letter. He understood I had been the lucky purchaser; I knew his institution was collecting Frankliniana; what was I asking for it? I told him, but in some embarrassment I added that, much as I regretted it, this was one case where I could not offer him the item. I informed him of the circumstances, and frankly admitted that I had no assurance that Columbia would take the letter as I had never sold them anything before. Unwilling to give in, he stressed the point that his institution's collection of Franklin letters was the most comprehensive in the country. Wouldn't it be a most appropriate addition to

Elements of Philosophy:  
~~Elementa Philosophica:~~  
 A short System of the Mind & Morals  
 Containing chiefly,  
 a LOGIC  
**NOETICA,**  
 which explains & directs the Operations  
 Of ~~Tunes~~ relating to the  
 of the  
 Mind or Understanding:  
 in the Search of Truth.  
 A N D  
 an **E T H I C A,**  
 which explain & direct the  
 Of ~~Tunes~~ relating to the  
 Temper &  
 a right **MORAL BEHAVIOUR,** in pursuit of  
 a New Edition much improved with many Additions &  
 By J AMES L JOHNSON, D.D. & first ~~ment~~  
 President of Kings College at New York,  
 for the Use of ~~that~~ Colleges.

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whatever the World thinks, He  
 who has not much meditated on GOD,  
 the Human mind & the Supreme Being,  
 may possibly make a thriving Earth-worm; but will  
 most indubitably make but a sorry patriot & a sorry Statesman.  
 Ap Berkeley's Seris 8350.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
 Printed by B. FRANKLIN, and D. HALL, at the  
 New-Printing-Office, near the Market. 1752.

Title page of Johnson's *Elementa Philosophica*, with corrections  
 in his hand.

their papers? I did not deny this fact but stood my ground, stating that I felt strongly that in this case my Alma Mater had a prior claim. Realizing that he could not break down my determination, the librarian accepted the situation gracefully and simply said that if the letter was not purchased by Columbia, his institution would definitely take it.

My situation was now an enviable one. I promptly telephoned Dr. White once again. The opportunity of telling him that Columbia was free to take or not to take, as far as any monetary advantage to me was concerned, was too good to miss. I wished him to know that I was not using my newly formed membership in the Friends to exploit the University. I told him, however, that if Columbia failed to buy it, I would really be disgusted. I could not believe that all the alumni had hearts of flint. And they didn't! It must have been the following day, or two days later at most, that Dr. White jubilantly gave me the happy news that Columbia had found a purchaser and eventual donor—Edmund A. Prentis.

The Friends were really on the move! Here was a positive result of perfect and harmonious cooperation between Librarian, collector-Friend and dealer-Friend. May such a wise and sympathetic teamwork continue to build up Columbia's Libraries not only in the Bicentennial year, but in many centenaries to come!



# The "Fifty Books" Over Thirty Years

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

EXACTLY what progress is being made in the United States in the direction of better printing and better book-making? In view of the conflicting opinions of experts, varying all the way from scathing rebuke to enthusiastic flattery, how can the men who are doing the work be sure whether their progress is slow or fast—or even whether it is backward rather than forward?"

Searching questions, these. They were asked in the introduction of the listing of the first exhibition of the "Fifty Books of the Year," the exhibition representing the output of American printers and publishers during the year 1923. The author of the introduction went on to say: "The American Institute of Graphic Arts . . . believes that the nearest approach to a specific answer will come through the adoption of some definite measure or yardstick which can be applied at regular stated intervals and in the presence of those most concerned. This belief has taken concrete form in the present exhibition."

It might seem reasonable to assume that the "yardstick" which the A.I.G.A. set out to establish three decades ago, after being applied annually on thirty occasions, has achieved a degree of monotony, a pattern, an evidence of policy. Indeed, the very word "yardstick" would imply that such a result would be inevitable. But the Institute wisely took steps to circumvent this by adopting a system of rotating juries—different each year, representing divergent opinions and fresh reactions, alive and sensitive to the need for flexibility. At the same time, public interest in the project has never faltered. "The Show" is eagerly awaited and enthusiastically attended each year, not only in those cities where it is regularly scheduled for display, but as traveling ex-



hibitions to museums, libraries and clubs all over the United States. This has meant that the juries responsible for the content of the displays have never had reason to feel that they were working in a vacuum, but—quite the contrary—have known that they were in a position to reach a wide and effective audience. Finally, the competition for inclusion has been keen, almost from the beginning, among those who are directly concerned with the problems of book production as it ought to be, and the selecting juries have always had rich representations of each year's output of books from which to choose the annual awards.

All this has resulted in a three-way guarantee of variety and of a high level of interest during fat years and lean, periods of depression, wartime denial and postwar inflation, and in the face of everchanging tastes and technology.

Over and over again, those who have been charged with the responsibility of making the annual selections have emphasized the fact that the intention has never been to decide which are the fifty *best* books of any given year, but to achieve a *representation* of publications that most fully illustrate the current ideals of the craft. The "yardstick," then, is not a set of hard and fast rules that restrict the free judgments of the selectors. It is rather an adjuration to the jury to bear in mind the basic purpose behind the exhibit, and takes the form of a broad recommendation in the vein of the following (which is extracted from the catalogue of the current show): "Selection of the Fifty Books . . . is to be based upon your judgment as to those books which represent the highest standards of bookmaking in relation to their purpose and price, *with special emphasis on those which the jury thinks most likely to raise these standards.* [Italics added.] The Fifty Books Committee hopes that your selections will result in a balanced, representative show of all the main categories of American bookmaking, not topheavy in any one classification."

The primary objective of each year's jury is of course attained when the selection is complete and the show goes on the road. Representatives of the publishing trades, the press, booksellers'

organizations, graphic arts training schools, libraries, and of an interested public gather to speed the new exhibition on its way. Throughout the country other cross sections reflecting the same or other specialized groups attend the various showings, and the particulars of the selection are discussed and debated widely with full treatment as to praise or criticism. Thus the exhibitions directly stimulate a wide interest in current evidences of sustained or improved quality in the technology of book production. This, it is true, is precisely the motive that inspired Morris and other protagonists of the "revival of fine printing" at the turn of the century and later; these men, too, sought to show by example the satisfaction that is the result of making books "better than necessary," as Updike put it. The American Institute of Graphic Arts has taken the matter one important step farther. Limited editions and the productions of private presses naturally find a place in each year's showing, but only when they have a special contribution to make to the total picture of contemporary publishing achievement. Principal emphasis is on the trade book, with a view to drawing attention to the success with which high standards in design and workmanship can be applied to the everyday volume for everyday sale at everyday prices.

This has fostered an unpremeditated effect of the Fifty Books exhibitions that grows more useful and striking with each succeeding year—the opportunity for serious study of the *cumulative* results of continued publicity directed specifically at book-making techniques and trends. "It will be interesting," observed George H. Sargent in reviewing the first exhibition in 1923, "to compare these fifty books with those selected for, say, the fifth annual exhibition. Will the books of 1927 be better than these of 1923—and in what respects?" And in 1947, on surveying the selections made during a quarter of a century, John T. Winterich was able to conclude that "The trade book has had its face washed and its hair combed and can now hold its own with the tenderly nurtured children of Limited Editions Avenue and Private Press Boulevard." Mr. Winterich further observed an "in-

creasing awareness that a book is a physical entity as well as a spiritual and intellectual one, an artifact no less than a vehicle for the text, something to look at as well as to look into."

The conviction on the part of the A.I.G.A. that its Fifty Books selections possess a unique collective usefulness to research into developments in modern American book production recently led to an important decision. A full set of selections made over the past thirty years has been given to Columbia University to form part of the library resources of the new Graphic Arts Center. Many of these books were already at Columbia, in its Rare Book, Book Arts, Typographic, and general collections; but such items had, of course, been selected as *texts* or individual specimens. The Institute's generous gift now makes it possible for Columbia to maintain the Fifty Books *as a unit*, documenting in the fullest possible degree the story of American typography over a whole generation. The collection will be added to as each new year's selection is made, and will thus form a continuing, ever complete resource for exhibitions, study groups, seminars and colloquies relating to graphic arts problems and topics, and of course as exemplars for use in class instruction.

The exhibition possibilities of the collection are literally endless: "Modern Text-Book Production in America"; "American Book Illustration Over Thirty Years"; "Binding Trends"; "American Type-Faces in Application"; "Current Fashions in Children's Books"; "The Place of Limited Editions Among the Fifty Books"; "Best Sellers and Quality Production"; "Letter Press and Offset." The list is limited only by one's imagination.

One spectacular possibility occurs almost automatically—a full-scale showing of *all* of the fifteen hundred selections made since the beginning of the Fifty Books exhibitions. Just how or when so grandiose a project can be brought to reality is a matter that will require considerable thought and planning—and assistance. The thought we are already giving; the help we know will come when the rewards which such an exhibition would bring are realized by our friends.

# Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

IN earlier pages of this issue Miss Benjamin compliments the University on its burgeoning importance as a repository for manuscript and printed rarities. We in the Libraries are in a favored position to observe the actual steps by which that welcome result is being gained. The good will of Friends, faculty, members of the Columbia family, and others who appreciate the value of the University's contribution to the cultural life of New York and the nation, is bringing an ever-increasing store of rare source works. It is deeply satisfying to us that we have been able to bolster that good will substantially through judicious purchases made possible by special endowments, for this serves to convince potential donors that we are serious in our desire for Columbia to assert her rightful position of leadership in the preservation of unique research materials.

The momentum of the program has become powerful. Even during the recent summer months, when a retarding of the rate of acquisition might have been expected, impressive numbers of highly significant gifts were received. The following paragraphs furnish some of the details.

## Manuscript Collections

*The Nevins Papers:* Professor Allan Nevins has commenced the project of transferring to the Libraries his extensive files of letters and papers. The work has not progressed far enough for more than the roughest estimate of the scope of the gift, but even so it is apparent that Professor Nevins in his busy career



has been in correspondence with an amazing cross section of America's important figures—political, commercial, social, and literary. In addition, the voluminous notes and data which he has gathered in support of his many published studies are to be included in the collection, to the delight and profit of future generations of scholars.

*The Adams Papers:* Mrs. James Truslow Adams has made extensive additions to the collection of correspondence of her late husband. The present gift comprises seventeen file boxes and six albums of letters.

*Papers of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace:* Some 200 cartons and files of letters and papers from the archives of the Endowment, ca. 1913–1950.

*The Haig Collection:* Correspondence, manuscripts, and reference works of the late Professor Robert Murray Haig of Columbia University, relating to his work in the field of political economy. Forty-seven cartons and twenty-four files, presented by Mrs. Haig.

*The Pfeifferberger Papers:* The scrapbooks, typescripts, and manuscripts of the late Dr. Otto E. Pfeifferberger, relating to political, legal, and literary topics, ca. 1939–1950. Presented by Mrs. Pfeifferberger.

*Architectural Drawings:* A group of seven architectural drawings for alterations to the Senate Chamber of the United States Capitol, executed by Mr. Edward Steese of the firm of Carrere and Hastings, 1928–1929. Presented to the Avery Architectural Library by Mr. Steese.

*Ward Papers:* A collection of letters, documents, and photographs relating to members of the Ward family of New Jersey,



1795-1873. Presented by Mr. Robert E. Schmitz to accompany his previous gift of the manuscript diaries of John D. Ward, 1827-1830.

*The Manuel Komroff Collection:* The first part of this valuable collection has just been received. It consists of 42 items, including manuscripts, typescripts, and published books representing Mr. Komroff's activities as an author and editor, autographs, letters, and inscribed copies of the works of various well-known authors. Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Komroff, who plan to make substantial additions to the collection from time to time.

*The Welch Gift:* Twelve important and valuable items, including letters and other manuscripts of prominent musicians of the 19th century. Included are two letters by Richard Wagner, one by Verdi, another by Schumann, and a leaf containing various music jottings believed to be in the hand of Beethoven. Presented by Miss Alberta M. Welch.

## Book Collections

*The Lamont Gift:* Approximately 5,000 books in all subject fields. Among them are 150 rare items, including Thomas à Kempis, *Opera*, Nuremberg, 1494; Edmund Spenser, *Works*, 1679; Jonathan Swift, *A Tale of a Tub*, 1704; and a number of scarce Robert Frost items, some of which are annotated or inscribed by the author. Presented by Dr. and Mrs. Corliss Lamont.

*Printing Technology:* Books and bound periodicals (33 items) relating to printing and typography, including several items dealing with the machinery produced at the Robert Hoe Company. Presented by the Robert Hoe Company.

*Brander Matthews Presentation Copies:* Thirty-three volumes inscribed by Brander Matthews, mostly of his own writings for presentation to his mother. The gift of Mr. Ian Forbes Fraser.

*Tammaniana:* Eighteen works to be added to the Kilroe Collection of Tammaniana. Bequest of the late Edwin Patrick Kilroe.

*The Lewis Gift:* About 600 books and pamphlets in the field of the sciences, humanities, and fine arts. Several of the items are rarities, including the 1616 edition of John Hayward's *The Sanctuarie*. Presented by Mr. Clarence McKenzie Lewis.

*Sales Catalogues:* A collection of some 225 volumes of catalogues of book dealers and auction houses. Presented by Mr. Walter Toscanini.

*The Engel Collection:* A truly remarkable collection of rarities selected from their library for presentation to Columbia by Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel. Included in the gift are 65 of the rare copyright editions of various works by Kipling; runs of the *United Services College Chronicle* (1881-1894) and *The Friend* (1900), to which Kipling contributed; the rare Lahore, 1886, edition of *Departmental Ditties*; an inscribed copy of the 3-volume *Poems: 1886-1929*; and a fabulous copy of *Schoolboy Lyrics* (Lahore, 1881), inscribed "Rudyard Kipling. Feb. 10, '99."

The collection also contains Gelett Burgess items of the utmost rarity, including an original drawing of the "Purple Cow" and both issues of the first number of *The Lark*. There is a fine copy of the first issue of Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; a copy of Clement C. Moore's *Poems* inscribed "To N. F. Moore, Prest. Col. Coll. with the kind regards of the author. July 1844;" and *La Maniere de Bien Penser*, Amsterdam, 1709, inscribed "S. Johnsons Book [first President of King's College] given him by Madam Berkeley the Dean's Lady. 1730."

Perhaps the most appealing item in the collection, however, is Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885), the first edition with the binding in the first state, and inscribed "To Nellie Frances Van de Grift from the author & the author's wife March 14th 1885." This is unquestionably one of the most important presentation copies of this work now in existence. "Nellie," Stevenson's youngest sister-in-law, was a California girl, and her copy, inscribed immediately upon publication, was most likely the first to reach this country. The intimate use of "Nellie" betrays the warm affection beneath the apparent formality of the inscription.

*Architectural Photographs:* A commemorative series of special photographs recording the architecture of William A. Delano, prepared for the American Institute of Architects in connection with his receiving the Institute's 1953 gold medal award. Presented to the Avery Architectural Library by Mr. William A. Delano.

*The Tillson Collection:* A considerable part of the personal library of the late Benjamin Franklin Tillson, mining engineer. Included in the gift are a collection of publications issued by the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the original charts and blueprints used in Mr. Tillson's *Mine Plants*, published by the Institute. Presented to the Egleston Library by Mrs. Tillson.

*Legal Works:* A collection of about 325 books and pamphlets relating to law. Presented by Professor Philip C. Jessup.

## Individual Gifts

Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*, Venice, 1730. The gift of Dean Margaret B. Pickel.



Gelett Burgess' original sketch of the "Purple Cow." Engel Gift.



Bellah, James Warner, proofs and press-revised manuscripts of his recently published series of six Civil War stories. The joint gift of the author and Mr. Stuart Rose, Associate Editor of *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Benjamin, Park, A.L.S. to Mr. Fields regarding the M.L.A. poet of the year. The gift of Mr. Howard S. Mott.

Boccaccio, *Genealogia*, Venice, 1564. The gift of Dean James K. Finch.

Hoe, Richard March, bronze portrait by Miss Nell Van Hook. The gift of Mr. Harold March Hoe.

Hôryûji Temple, Nara, Japan. A portfolio of 43 prints of the Temple, of which 26 are in color, accompanied by descriptive matter by eminent Japanese and American authorities on Buddhist art. The gift, expressing gratitude for American aid in support of higher education in Japan, comes from the Japanese University Accreditation Association, representing educational institutions in Japan.

Joffe, Judah A., *Elia Bachur's Poetical Works*; two copies, one on colored paper. The gift of Mr. Judah A. Joffe.

Jonson, Ben, *Workes*, 1640. A fine copy in its original binding, formerly owned by William Legge, who later became the first Earl of Dartmouth. Legge's signature occurs in several places in the book, and the Dartmouth armorial bookplate was discovered under the front pastedown. The gift of Professor William Y. Tindall.

Josephus, *Works* [in English], London, 1655. The gift of Mrs. Virginia Henderson.

Mayer, Fred, *Static and Dynamic Causes of the Secession of the South*, March 1940; typed manuscript. The gift of Mrs. Ed. Lyndon.



Manuscripts, presented by their authors: Dangerfield, George, *Era of Good Feelings* (Bancroft award, 1953); Goldman, Professor Eric P., *Rendezvous With Destiny* (Bancroft award, 1953); Tufts, Anne Blanchard, *As the Wheel Turns*.

Medieval Manuscript. An affidavit of executorship and an inventory of the possessions of Peter de Alios, deceased. Copy (made ca. 1400) of an original dated in the parish of Canillo, the Province of Andorra, August 22, 1384. The manuscript was presented by Professor Austin P. Evans, to whom it had been given by Professor Richard Emory of Queens College. Professor Evans included a transcription and translation of the document, prepared by members of his seminar.

New York Temporary Rent Commission. Manuscript record of decisions and proceedings. Presented to the Law Library by Professor Herbert Wechsler, one of the Commissioners.

*Proposal for Correcting . . . the English Tongue*, 1712. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Steegmuller.

*The Reprisal of the Tars of Old England*, 1776. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Steegmuller.

Riederer, Ludwig, *Dictate über Physik*, 1853. Manuscript written by Riederer at the age of 16. Presented by his son, Dr. Herman S. Riederer.

Rycaut, Paul, *History of the Turkish Empire from the Year 1623 to . . . 1677*, London, 1680. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman, who also contributed funds to have the volume rebound in full leather.

Schwenter, M. Daniel, *Deliciae Physico-Mathematicae*, 1636. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman.

Smith, Helen Evertson, *Rebels and Royalists of the American Revolution*. Typed manuscript, unpublished. The gift of Professor Emeritus Robert L. Schuyler.

Soane, John (English architect), A.L.S. to the Marquis of Buckingham regarding a design for the House of Lords, 3 October 1799. The gift to Avery Architecture Library from Mrs. Harold G. Henderson.

*Table of Ancient Coins, Weights and Measures* . . . London, 1727. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman.

Tagliacozzi. Butler, Samuel, *Hudibras* (1st and 2nd parts) London, 1663-64. John Locke's copy, with some Rabelaisian Latin verses in his autograph, mentioning Tagliacozzi's plastic surgery experiments. Purchased by Dr. Jerome P. Webster for inclusion in the Webster Library of Plastic Surgery.

Thackeray, William Makepeace, *English Humorists*, 1853. The gift of Dean Margaret B. Pickel.

Thomson, James, *The Seasons*, 1744. Autographed by the author. The gift of Professor Erik Barnouw.

*Tractatus de Incarnatione*, 17th-century manuscript copy of an earlier religious thesis. Presented by Professor and Mrs. Joseph L. Blau.

Volk Publications. Three fine editions of recently published works: *The Charter of the United Nations* (1948); *The Signing of the North Atlantic Treaty* (1949); and *The Rights of Man* (1950). The gift of Mr. Kurt H. Volk.

## The Editor Visits the East Asiatic Library

SOME think of libraries as ivory towers—hushed, book-encrusted retreats insulated from the world, inhabited by librarians more familiar with the life of the Middle Ages or Ancient Rome than with the tumults of today. Yet if there is anything which has struck us on our visits to the various Columbia libraries, it is the way life has of breaking into even the most cloistered and esoteric of them. In the Medical Library, for instance, the rise and fall of the Nazi regime could have been charted in terms of the changing quality of the German journals received during the years 1933–1945. The East Asiatic Library is similarly a faithful barometer of political pressure areas in the Far East, and the Librarian, Howard P. Linton, could keep up with events in that part of the world without opening a newspaper—simply by studying the vicissitudes of the flow of Oriental publications into his Library.

The outbreak of World War II was heralded by the disappearance of Japanese periodicals from the mails. They did not appear again until 1948. Since then, the circulation of materials in the Japanese language has risen about 400 percent, which is twice the increase in the use of Chinese items. Some of this increase represents the interest of Americans whom the war introduced to Japan; now Mr. Linton wonders whether the circulation of Korean books (only 30 in 1952–53) will start to climb.

The descent of the Bamboo Curtain around China has also been felt in the East Asiatic Library. Very wisely, the Library takes the position adopted by President Eisenhower in his Dartmouth College speech last June 14: that the best way to aid scholars in a democracy which challenges and is challenged by a totalitarian regime is to bring them the most extensive and up-

to-date information possible about that alien ideology. Along with twelve other American libraries Columbia has a government license to import publications from the mainland of China, and books and periodicals still come from a bookseller in Peking. If, as sometimes happens, certain "sensitive" items (for example, those dealing with projects of strategic significance) are withheld from the shipment, they can frequently be obtained from Hong Kong. This city is, in fact, the chief source of China mainland publications. As might be expected, there is an increasing publication in Russian of books on China.

The East Asiatic Reading Room, a lofty room in Low Library, acquires a special flavor from the art objects which are exhibited there. We noticed a replica of a Japanese family shrine ("made especially for the Library," Mr. Linton remarked, rather surprisingly). An oval lacquer tray, in which appeared an exquisite landscape of mountain, cloud and sea fashioned entirely from rocks and white sand, was proudly exhibited as an example of "Bonseki" work, from the hand of Miss Miwa Kai, the senior Library Assistant. The most striking object of all, looking unmistakably Italian, was introduced to us as "the Baldacchino": a structure with four marble pillars, supporting a bronze canopy and clock, which memorializes the Class of 1874. After many wanderings it came to rest in its present location. "It's all right here," said the Librarian, in a resigned voice, "now that we have learned how to avoid bruised hips."

The Chinese library contains 134,280 volumes, and is surpassed in this country by very few such collections. It was interesting to learn that its foundation was laid by the Chinese Government, which in 1902 presented the University with the great encyclopedia known as Ch'in Ting Ku Chin T'u Shu Chi Ch'eng ("Fixed by Imperial Authority Ancient-Modern Illustrations-Books Gathered Together."). This immense work, beside which the Encyclopedia Britannica is a mere pigmy, is divided into 5,044 books bound in 1,672 volumes and contains 852,408 pages. First published in 1728, the Library was presented

with the second edition (1895-98), of which only 250 copies were printed.

One of the foundation stones of the Japanese Collection also derives from an official source: the 594 volumes of publications made under Imperial direction since the 8th Century. This was donated to Columbia by the Japanese Imperial Household. In April, 1948, over 4000 books and 6000 periodicals, all in Japanese, were given to the Collection by a friend of the Library. The periodicals filled a great need for recent material, and helped build up what is now an up-to-date, working collection. This tied in nicely with the establishing, after the war, of the East Asian Institute, which has been instrumental in shifting the emphasis of Oriental study at Columbia to social sciences in relation to the contemporary Far East. This is in contrast to the earlier, perhaps too-exclusive, preoccupation with the humanities.

The cataloging of Chinese and Japanese books, which the Librarian patiently tried to explain to us, is complicated by the difficulty of knowing how a Japanese author pronounces his name. Thus a name written in the characters "pine-tree-wind" is usually given the Japanese pronunciation, "Matsukaze," *unless* it is pronounced, in the Chinese manner, "Shofu." The choice depends on family tradition, and is purely arbitrary. In the East Asiatic Library an elaborate file gives the correct pronunciation in romanized form, supported in each case by various weighty authorities.

The calligraphy of the characters on some of the file cards was extraordinarily beautiful—to hunt through them would be, not a chore, but an aesthetic adventure. There is also a scroll hanging in the Reading Room with calligraphy by Rai Sanyô (1781-1832). To see this masterpiece is alone worth a trip to the East Asiatic Library. The artist might well have been exemplifying the words of China's 4th Century master, Wang Hsi-chih, who wrote of the art of calligraphy:

*"Every horizontal stroke is like a mass of clouds in battle formation, every hook like a bent bow of greatest strength, every*



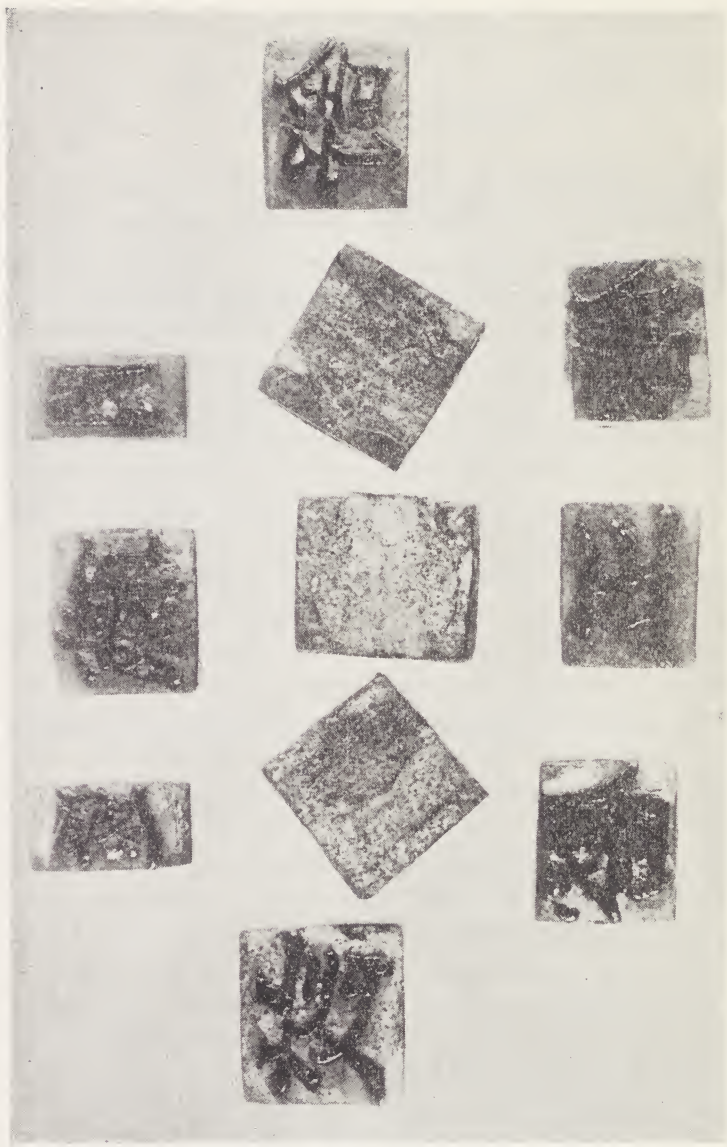
*dot like a falling rock from a high peak, every turning of the stroke like a brass hook, every drawn-out line like a dry vine of great old age, and every swift and free stroke like a runner on his start."*

As we were leaving, another gift from the Far East caught our eye: the magnificent folio entitled *Wall Paintings in the Kondô Hôryûji Monastery*. The universities of Japan wished to express their gratitude to American universities for their reception of Japanese students since World War II, and collected from their libraries 240 copies of this work, which they then sent to university libraries in this country. As we admired this gift, we fervently hoped that Japanese libraries contained as generous and imaginative tokens of American good will!

# Korean Type

HOWARD P. LINTON

THE true date for the first use of movable metal type in Korea has yet to be established. In 1232, the scholar Yi Kyoo-bo mentions the acquisition of *Books of Ceremonies* printed from movable metal type, and the British Museum owns a type-printed book with title pages bearing the dates 1317 and 1324. Thomas Carter, from whose book *The Invention of Printing in China* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1925) most of the following information is taken, doubted the validity of these claims, and accepted the date 1403. In that year, King T'ai Tsung (reigned 1401-1419) set into motion the foundry which had been established as a unit of the Department of Books in 1392, the first year of the 500-year Yi Dynasty. T'ai Tsung regretted that only a small number of block-printed books were reaching his country from China, where use of the earthenware movable type invented by Pi Sheng in the 11th century had not proved practicable. He also acknowledged the fact that "the books printed from blocks are often imperfect, and moreover it is difficult to print in their entirety all the books that exist. I ordain therefore that characters be formed of bronze and that everything without exception upon which I can lay my hands be printed, in order to pass on the tradition of what these works contain." The royal family, along with others who wished to contribute privately, assumed the costs. The best of calligraphers designed the "several hundred thousand" characters making up the font. T'ai Tsung's son, Shih Tsung (reigned 1419-1451) is credited with improving the process. By the time the third font had been cast in 1434—before the invention of printing in Europe, as Mr. Carter points out—classical literature and books of history and morals were being put out at a rate of "more than forty sheets" a day.



Korean bronze printing types in the Columbia Collection.

Much significance is given to the type mould developed by the Koreans. Around 1600, the scholar Song Hyon described it: "Characters were first cut from beech wood, these were the models. Then sand was taken from the shore of the sea where the reeds grow. This was placed in a trough and the wooden letters pressed against it. In this way the negative moulds were made, from which the type was cast. Over these were placed a cover with openings, and melted bronze poured in. When this cooled, it became type."

Mr. Carter concludes his chapter on Korean type with the sentence that "It is a strange fact that the nations the symbols of whose languages present more difficulties to the typographic printer than those of any other languages in the world, should have been the first nations to invent and develop the art of typography."

The East Asiatic Library's collection of Korean movable type, purchased in Japan in the 1930's, is of unknown date, but it is similar to early varieties. It consists of 11 bronze and 35 wooden characters. The bronze type was cast for actual printing, while the wooden type was used as master designs in the preparation of matrices.

Despite the existence of a Korean alphabet, the Koreans—especially the scholars and officials—have for many centuries used Chinese characters in their writing. The meanings are, however, not always the same in the two languages; certain characters, moreover, were adopted as suffixes aimed to clarify the meaning of another Chinese character to the Koreans. The three bronze types in the illustration have the Chinese meanings (from left to right): to return, to repay; the duties of office, an official position; to flash, shun, dodge.

## Activities of the Friends

### An Evening With Jacques Barzun

THE NEXT meeting of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries will be held on December 8th at 8:30 p.m. in the Social Room of Butler Library. At this time the Friends will have an opportunity to meet Jacques Barzun, well-known author and Professor of History at Columbia University, and to preview the exhibit of books and manuscripts prepared to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Louis Hector Berlioz. Perhaps most widely known in recent years as the author of the *Teacher in America* (1945), Professor Barzun is also the author of *Berlioz and the Romantic Century* (1950) and of a forthcoming volume, *New Letters of Berlioz, 1830-1868*. The latter volume is one of twelve distinguished books in the forthcoming Columbia Bicentennial Editions and Studies series which exemplify the current scholarship of members of the Columbia University faculties. Earlier works by Professor Barzun include *The French Race: Theories of its Origins* (1932), *Race: A Study in Modern Superstitions* (1937), *Of Human Freedom* (1939), *Darwin, Marx, Wagner* (1941), *Romanticism and the Modern Ego* (1943).

### An Evening With John Mason Brown

The Friends of the Columbia Libraries will act as co-sponsors with the Institute of Arts and Sciences on the occasion of the evening with John Mason Brown, January 27, at 8:30 p.m., in McMillin Theater, Broadway at 116th Street. Tickets (\$1.00) may be obtained from the Institute, Room 304, School of Business, Columbia University.



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*Opportunity to consult Librarians*, including those in charge of the specialized collections, about material of interest to a member. (Each Division Head has our members' names on file.)

*Free subscription to* COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS.

\* \* \*

*As a Friend of the Columbia Libraries you are asked to assume no specific obligations. We rely on your friendship towards our institution and its ideals. However, if members express their support through annual donations of books or other material, or cash,\* we shall have a tangible indication that our program to arouse interest in the pressing needs of the Libraries has been successful. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.*

\* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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